

Message Text

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ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00

AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10

NSAE-00 ICA-11 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

LAB-04 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 SS-15 /137 W

-----057008 100651Z /20

R 100429Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3235

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL BRISBANE POUCH

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL PERTH POUCH

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 3595

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB ETRD EGEN SHUM ICFTU AS

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SUBJECT: WORLD WIDE TRADE BOYCOTT - SOUTH AFRICA

1. DURING MEETING OF AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND TRADE UNION CO-
ORDINATING COMMITTEE AT MELBOURNE APRIL 19, IT WAS AGREED
TO PRESS FOR A WORLD-WIDE AND TOTAL TRADE BOYCOTT AGAINST
SOUTH AFRICA DURING COMING MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL CON-
FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU) EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

SCHEDULED FOR HAMBURG MAY 17-19 AND ALSO DURING JUNE ILO ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

2. THIS, ACCORDING TO AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS (ACTU) PRESIDENT BOB HAWKE "COULD BRING THE SOUTH AFRICAN REGIME TO ITS KNEES IN A MATTER OF MONTHS."
HAWKE ALSO SAID THE TWO COUNTRIES WOULD ASK OTHER TRADE UNION MOVEMENTS TO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO TAKING ACTION AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA AND NOT BE CONTENT WITH PASSING RESOLUTIONS.

3. "I THINK THE ORDINARY TRADE UNIONIST IN AUSTRALIA FINDS APARTHEID ABHORRENT AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE HIMSELF AS PART OF A CONCERTED WORLD-WIDE ACTION, BUT HE'S NOT GOING TO BE THE BUNNY" (LEFT OUT ON A LIMB, OR LEFT HOLDING THE BAG, ALL BY HIMSELF) THE ACTU LEADER SAID. THE MOST EFFECTIVE ACTION WOULD BE AN INDUSTRIAL BOYCOTT OF TRADE TO AND FROM SOUTH AFRICA UNTIL IT ABANDONED AQCRTHEID, HE SAID.

4. MR. HAWKE ALSO ACCUSED FOREIGN TRADE UNION MOVEMENTS OF BEING "THE GREATEST RESOLUTIONARIES IN THE WORLD." THEY WERE MAGNIFICENT AT PASSING RESOLUTIONS BUT THEN WENT AWAY AND DID NOTHING ABOUT THEM, HE SAID.

5. AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND WERE THE ONLY COUNTRIES WHICH
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HAD TAKEN CONSTRUCTIVE ACTION, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE NO BANS OR BOYCOTTS YET IN FORCE.

6. MR. HAWKE SAID THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE SHOULD WORK OUT A FORMULA WHICH EACH TRADE UNION MOVEMENT COULD TAKE BACK TO ITS OWN COUNTRY AND DECIDE ON.
"UNLESS THAT SORT OF THING IS DONE, SURE WE'LL CONDEMN APARTHEID, BUT WE'RE NOT GOING TO BE THE ODD ONE OUT IN TAKING ACTION AND JUST WATCH OTHER COUNTIRES LUXURIATING IN RESOLUTIONS BUT PINCHING OUR TRADE," HE SAID.
THE APRIL 19TH MEETING ALSO CONDEMNED THE "INHUMANE ACTIONS OF THE MILITARY DICTATORSHIP" OF CHILE, PARTICULARLY ITS DESTRUCTION OF A FREE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT.

7. THE CONFERENCE DECIDED THAT IF THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUED ITS THREAT TO INITIATE STATE-DOMINATED UNIONS, THE ACTU WOULD ACT ON ANY REQUEST FOR HELP BY ADVISING ITS AFFILIATES NOT TO HANDLE GOODS TRANSPORTED BY SHIP OR AIR BY NON-UNION LABOR.

8. COMMENT. ACTU EXECUTIVE MEMBER AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY PETER NOLAN TOLD EMBASSY LABOR ATTACHE THAT HAWKE INTENDS

TO PRESS HARD FOR ADOPTION OF ACTU PRPOSED BOYCOTT AT
ICFTU HAMBURG MEETING AND ILO JUNE CONFERENCE.
ACTU EXECUTIVE PARTICULARLY ANNOYED AT "EUROPEANS" WHO
ADOPT RESOLUTIONS AD NAUSEAM WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST
INTENTION OF CARRYING THEM OUT. HAWKE, ACCORDING TO
NOLAN, EVEN IF NOT SUCCESSFUL WILL CREATE A STINK AND
CAUSE "THE EUROPEANS" TO GIVE MORE SERIOUS CONSIDERATIONS TO
FUTURE RESOLUTIONS.
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